

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present Amendment and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 44-51 and 53-73 were pending prior to this amendment. Claims 44, 50, 51, and 73 have been modified by this amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claim 51 was objected to due to an informality; claims 44, 50, 51, 56-58, and 73 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala in view of Arnoul; claims 45-47, 59-61, and 66-68 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala and Arnoul in view of Ozaki and Mutoh; claims 48, 62, and 69 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala and Arnoul in view of Peterson; claims 49, 63, and 70 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala and Arnoul in view of Mutoh; claims 53, 64, and 71 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala and Arnoul in view of Yasui; claims 54, 65, and 72 were under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala and Arnoul in view of Ozaki; and claim 55 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala and Arnoul in view of Peterson and Ozaki;

In response to the objection to claim 51, the noted informality in claim 51 has been corrected as suggested in the Office Action.

In response to the rejections of claims 44, 50, 51, and 73 (all of the independent claims) over Pala in view of Arnoul, each of those claims has been amended in similar fashion. Specifically:

(1) Independent claim 44 now recites;

An image-capturing device comprising:

* *

direction setting means for setting an image-capturing
direction of said image-capturing means towards a building;
and

monitoring means for monitoring the building for security
of the building.

(2) Independent claim 50 now recites:

An image-capturing method...comprising:

* *

a direction setting step of setting an image-capturing
direction of said image-capturing means towards a building;
and

a monitoring step for monitoring the building so as to
inhibit power consumption in the building.

(3) Independent claim 51 now recites:

A computer-readable recording medium...comprising:

* *

a direction setting step of setting an image-capturing
direction of said image-capturing mean towards a building; and

a monitoring step for monitoring the building for security of
the building.

(4) Independent claim 73 now recites:

A vehicle comprising:

* *

direction setting means for setting an image-capturing
direction of said image-capturing means towards a building;
and

monitoring means for monitoring the building for security
of the building.

The recitations that the monitoring is “for security of the building” is supported, for
instance, in the specification in paragraphs [0300] and [0301].

According to the Office Action:

Pala discloses an image capturing method for an image capturing apparatus, a computer readable recording medium, a vehicle and an image-capturing device comprising:

* *

direction setting means for setting an image-capturing direction of said image-capturing means in a monitor mode for monitoring a building (col. 3, ln. 23-26, 29-31 and 38-42....

However, Applicants have carefully reviewed the cited passages but are unable to find any reference to a building, let alone any reference to monitoring a building (for any purpose) in those passages. Moreover, the Office Action continues as follows:

Pala does not specifically disclose monitoring a building.

Applicants respectfully and wholeheartedly agree with this assertion/concession.

The Office action continues by asserting that:

The concept of manipulating a camera to monitor a building is considered [to have been] obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since one can manipulate and place the camera at any location to monitor any site that one desires to survey for the task at hand.

Applicants' response is that this assertion is unsupported by any teaching in Pala.

Applicants do not dispute that the necessary implementary arts were available before their invention and that, in that limited (and, actually, irrelevant) sense, someone else could have made their invention before they did. The relevant point, however, is that Pala did not do so.

Finally, the Office Action asserts that:

Arnoul teaches the calibration of the camera's position to monitor a building (col. 11, ln. 14-22 and fig. 6[.]) Arnoul discloses that on the vehicle 21, the camera 22 can be oriented to the building by moving the vehicle toward the building or by using the camera 4 placed on a turret 20 via rotating or orienting the turret to capture image data). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one [of] ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Arnoul into Pala's system for easily capturing images on a vehicle without any difficulties in an accurate, efficient, quick manner (Arnoul col. 2, ln. 14-18 and 26-30).

Applicants' response is that Arnoul teaches using "a fixed test object...which can consist of a group of reflectors stuck to the wall of a building" to orient the vehicle. It doesn't teach anything at all about using the camera on the vehicle to monitor the building, let alone to monitor the building for security of the building.

Moreover, Arnoul discloses a system for network management for an on-board navigation system, not for monitoring a building for security of the building. Similarly, Pala fails to disclose a system to monitor a building for security of the building.

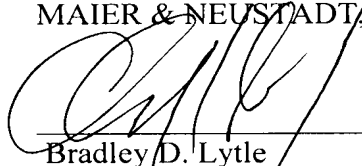
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of their independent claims (and, hence, all of their other claims depending from those independent claims) are allowable over Pala in view of Arnoul.

As for the tertiary references cited in the Office Action, they were all cited for reasons completely unrelated to monitoring a building to inhibit power consumption within the building. Accordingly, Applicants believe that they are irrelevant to the issue of the allowability of Applicants' independent claims.

An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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